

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 /061 W

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4222

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YU, US

SUBJECT: CROATIAN PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AT ANNUAL MEETING WITH
CONSULAR CORPS IN ZAGREB, JANUARY 7, 1977

1. AT TRADITIONAL, ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR CONSULAR CORPS HOSTED
BY PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF CROATIA, JAKOV BLAZEVIC,
THIS AFTERNOON, JANUARY 7, BLAZEVIC EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAVIA'S
INDEPENDENT, NON-ALIGNED POSITION. HE QUOTED TITO AND IN-
SISTED THAT THIS IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE YUGOSLAVIA'S
POLICY.

2. FOLLOWING THE FORMAL EXCHANGE OF TOASTS, I WAS LED BY THE
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TO SIT BESIDE BLAZEVIC AT ONE OF A NUMBER OF
SMALL TABLES. BLAZEVIC SHOWERED HIS ATTENTION ON ME, IN
WHAT I TOOK TO BE AN INDIRECT BUT OBVIOUS MESSAGE TO THE
SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL, WHO SAT AT OTHER END OF TABLE AND WHO
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE HARDLY A WORD WITH BLAZEVIC.

3. APART FROM EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN MY EXPERIENCES WHILE
IN U.S. ON HOME LEAVE, OUR CONVERSATION TURNED INTERESTINGLY
BUT, UNHAPPILY, INCONCLUSIVELY ON "PRESSURES" FROM U.S. BOTH
BLAZEVIC AND HIS NEW WIFE (VERA GEROVAC, PRESIDENT OF COMMITTEE
FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE CROATIAN SABOR) REFERRED TO SUCH
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"PRESSURES" AND REFERRED TO TITO'S INFORMAL COMMENT TO THEM
LAST WEEK WHEN HE DESCRIBED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF EAST
GERMANY'S STATE AND PARTY LEADER HONECKER IN THE CONTEXT OF
"PRESSURE" FROM THE "OTHER" SIDE. WITHOUT SPECIFYING, OTHER
THAN REFERRING TO U.S. PRESS ARTICLES, BLAZEVIC SAID THE U.S.
HAS BEEN PRESSURING YUGOSLAVIA. I MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF
LEARNING PRECISELY WHAT YUGOSLAVS CONCEIVE TO BE "PRESSURES"

WHEN I MAKE CALLS ON CROATIAN LEADERS LATER THIS MONTH.

4. I EXPECT TO SEE PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SIROTKOVIC AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK. AT BLAZIVIC'S RECEPTION SIROTKOVIC REFERRED TO THE YUGOSLAV AIDE MEMOIRE ON KRSKO NUCLEAR PROJECT AND INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED THIS TOPIC TO COME UP AT OUR MEETING (NOTE: PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE IS ANY SPECIFIC POINT I SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT MAKE AT THIS MEETING. I INTEND TO DRAW FROM HARTMAN-BELOVSKI AND YORK-BERNARDIC MEETINGS.)

5. VERA GEROVAC-BLAZIVIC MADE A POINT OF TELLING ME THAT TITO IS IN SPLENDID SHAPE. THE CROATIAN LEADERSHIP WAS WITH TITO AT BELJE LAST WEEK, AT WHICH TIME TITO, SHE SAID, SPENT LONG HOURS HUNTING AND WAS AS SHARP AND ALERT AS EVER.

6. COMMENT: THE CROATIAN LEADERSHIP WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY FRIENDLY, EVEN THOUGH THEY AIMED BARBS, WHICH I REJECTED, AT THOSE IN U.S., WHO CONTINUE TO THINK OF SERB-CROAT HOSTILITIES AND WHOSE AIM IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF YUGOSLAVIA.

7. AS TO BE EXPECTED, BLAZEVIC AND OTHER YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE WAITING FOR ACTION BY NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION. KAISER

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